

Commercial Advertiser

WALTER G. SMITH - EDITOR

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THE MAN BEHIND THE GUN.

The American sailor is improving with the ships of the navy. He is still a somewhat strenuous man, as becomes his trade, and he has his marine "idiosyncrasies" as Admiral Evans admits, but between the bright, active, decent young seaman of today and the beach-combing reprobate of a generation or less ago, is a difference which does honor to the system under which the men of the new navy have been recruited and trained.

In earlier days the most of Uncle Sam's seamen were taken from the rough old merchant marine, often that of some other country than our own; also from among wharf rats and river boatmen. They would fight under good officers but it was a terror to have them ashore. When the navy ceased to be a thing of sails and became a steam mechanism, intricate of design and complicated of process, it was possible to enlist a better class of men. There was not then much call for the old fo'castle hand of the merchantmen; what the navy wanted were mechanics and men out of whom to make artillerymen. Then young men from country towns who had never smelt salt water, became available, and the class attracted from seaport towns was, in the main, decent and manly. Three hundred sailors of the old class turned loose in Honolulu, demoralized the town; three thousand of the kind now in port give very little trouble either to citizens or police.

One thing that has contributed to the improvement of the service is better treatment of the men. They have good sleeping and eating accommodations and superior fare; they are treated like fellow-Americans, as indeed most of them are. Steadily the percentage of American nativity has risen in the navy until it is now very high; and the average of patriotism and self-respect has grown with it. As the morale of the service increases, good men are drawn into it thus keeping the level high and rising. Furthermore, with the disappearance of the old slow-coach ships, sailors are not compelled to be on deep water interminably; they are hurried from one interesting place to another in the crack modern cruisers and see a great deal of the world in a short time. This also attracts young men of a good class.

Hence the American sailor of today, healthy, erect, clean-looking, even his vices being sturdy and above-board. He is welcome to Honolulu now and in the future—welcome in port and ashore, a good fellow to know and a man to depend on.

ADVERTISER'S DAY OFF.

There will be no Advertiser on Saturday morning. This office takes one holiday a year and it occurs on Christmas. On every other day of the '365 the establishment is open during each hour of the 24. Save on Sunday the business office and the job and bindery departments begin work in the early morning just as the distributors of the paper are closing up and going home to resume their interrupted sleep. The counting room force stays on duty until 5 p. m. Meanwhile the writing staff has assembled, the hour being one p. m., and all or some of the members keep at work until 2 a. m. The art staff works from 7 to 5 during the day and the proof-readers from 3 to 2 at night. The foreman of the composing room appears at 5 p. m. and stays until the cars begin to run in the morning. The printers and linotype operators report at 6 p. m. and are not free until about 2 a. m., a couple of hours before which the pressman has arrived and gone to work. When he leaves, the distributors are busy and the carriers and newsboys beginning to show up. As the last of them disappear the business force, somewhat preceded by the janitors, comes back again. On Sunday there is a partial lay-off of the business people but the others go on as usual. After a year of this sort of thing a Christmas rest is earned—hence no Advertiser on the day after.

Pennies are coming into general circulation in San Francisco and elsewhere on the coast, a result of department stores which sell in fractions of money and make exact change; of Eastern tourists and settlers, who insist on their right to use any of the currency of the nation; of the postoffice, which makes change of pennies, and of the refusal of the poor to give a nickel for two cents' worth. It will not be long before antipathy to the copper will be left to Hawaii where, of all places, the little coin ought to flourish best, the vast majority of the people domiciled here—native and Asiatic—being in close financial circumstances.

The Hearst boom for President is growing. Hitherto it has been confined to the New York American, Chicago American and San Francisco Examiner. Now it is to gain a fresh supporter in the Los Angeles Examiner, the newest of Mr. Hearst's newspaper family.

KEEP THE FLEET.

There are rumors of an early departure of the fleet. If they are due to the probabilities of war in the Far East, and if war actually threatens, nothing can be done to induce the Government to hold the vessels here longer than the time in which they can be put in readiness to leave. But if the move is simply a routine matter, we judge that the Governor and commercial bodies of Honolulu could do much, through their friends at Washington, to secure a longer visit.

Such influences have sufficed many and many a time on the Pacific Coast. There the North Pacific fleet has been moved around at the pleasure, almost, of coastwise towns, which wanted it to assist in public or social observances. Admiral Gherardi attended the Cabrillo celebration at San Diego in 1892 with three vessels; there have been visits of battleships and cruisers to San Pedro during the Los Angeles fiestas and at Seattle and Portland celebrations; and at no time have such cities been refused when they asked for a longer call. Washington likes to have the American people familiarized with the Navy and partly for that purpose it sent a monitor up the Mississippi to St. Louis a few months ago. So if we show a disposition to entertain our guests awhile longer all we have to do is to signify the fact to the President and Secretary of the Navy and they will do their best for us unless war on the Asiatic station makes an imperative demand for the ships.

Under the circumstances Honolulu ought to act through a joint cablegram to the President and Secretary of the Navy asking for a longer stay of Admiral Evans' fleet, the message to be signed by the Governor, Chamber of Commerce, Merchants' Association and Builders and Traders' Association.

NO SALOON PRIZEFIGHTS.

The Advertiser hopes that if the Sheriff has issued any permits for saloon prizefights he will withdraw them in the interests of the sailors as well as the public.

Against such boxing matches as are held at the Orpheum the Advertiser has never said a word. It regards them somewhat as it does football. But a boxing match or prizefight in a saloon where the object simply is to induce a crowd of men to get drunk, is something that Honolulu is not prepared to look upon with favor. At such a place the fighting will not be confined to the roped arena; and as a result a good many sailors and others will go to the hospital and some to jail. That is not the sort of "sport" for the High Sheriff to encourage.

Open the Orpheum every night, if you please, to boxing bouts, but keep them out of saloons.

It is with astonishment we learn, on the authority of Mr. Hatch, that Congress has seen fit to neglect the interests of Oahu county. The question arises: What is Congress for? Did the people of the United States elect that body of men to waste its time and theirs on insignificant matters such as a canal at Panama, capital and labor, postal and naturalization frauds, immigration, arbitration, relations with China, the Philippine tariff and the financial situation, and utterly overlook the fact that Oahu wants to be erected into the status of a Federal county? What if a Federal county is not known to the Constitution? What is the Constitution between friends? The Advertiser does not counsel anything violent, but it certainly seems that our Board of Supervisors should take Congress to task and be unsparing in its exposure of the delinquencies of that much overrated institution.

It matters little in the Jones case whether the fault of acquittal is with the jury, the judge or the jury system, except as it may show the exact spot upon which to place a remedial finger. That the acquittal of Jones was a miscarriage of justice, a provocation to crime and an encouragement to lynch law, is a plain statement of fact. The man is a beast of prey and his proper place is either on the gallows, in prison for life or in the insane asylum, we don't know which. But one thing we do know and the community knows—Jones has no right to be free—so far as the Parmenter charge is concerned—with a certificate of innocence and moral health. It needs no special acquaintance with "old Father Antic, the law," to recognize the guilt of Jones and the danger to society of letting him loose.

Perhaps there would not be so much enthusiasm for war in Colombia if Admiral Glass' fleet should take a little trip along the coast-line.



TWO CLEAR HOLIDAYS REPLETE WITH SPORT

Last night the committee of the Merchants' Association to arrange a schedule of sports for men of the U. S. squadron and civilians arrived at a symmetrical conclusion.

It includes football, baseball and regatta covering Christmas and the day after—Friday and Saturday. What will please the toilers of the city, particularly, is a proposition to make Saturday a full holiday.

Two football games are laid down for Christmas Day. The H. A. C. will play a team from the battleship Oregon, and the Punahou team will play a combination of the fleet.

Two baseball games are set for Saturday afternoon. All Honolulu will have a match with a fleet combination, while the flagship Kentucky's, champion of the fleet, will play the Kamehameha nine, champions of Honolulu.

It is proposed to hold the regatta on Saturday morning.

Fred. W. Macfarlane will go around among the business houses to obtain the consent of the merchants to close up on Saturday for a complete holiday.

In the meantime the committee, of which Representative W. W. Harris is chairman, will wait on Admiral Evans and lay before him the plans above sketched for his approval if they are satisfactory to him, and invite his cooperation to the extent of granting liberty to the sailors for the two days and otherwise as he may be pleased to render assistance.

Albert F. Judd has been appointed a United States Commissioner by Judge Dole, there being more business than Commissioner Douthitt can easily handle single-handed.

W. J. Coelho is over from Wailuku to confer with the Government about organizing a fire brigade for that town.

Honolulu Eagles will entertain Eagles of the fleet tonight at Waverley Hall.

THE ONLY LIVING EX-PRESIDENT.

Mr. Cleveland has lived in the time of more administrations than any one who has ever been President. He was born in 1837. In that year Martin Van Buren was inaugurated President, consequently Mr. Cleveland has lived in the administrations of Van Buren, the short term of William Henry Harrison and the remainder of the term to which Tyler succeeded; also in the administrations of Polk, Taylor, Fillmore, Pierce, Buchanan, Lincoln, Johnson, two terms of Grant, Hayes, Garfield, Arthur, Benjamin Harrison, McKinley, and thus far in the administration of Roosevelt—in all, eighteen, and, including his own, twenty.

Mr. Cleveland has not only lived in the administrations mentioned, but he has lived to see six Vice-Presidents succeed to the Presidency, three of them, Johnson, Arthur and Roosevelt, coming to the White House through the assassination of their predecessors. The others were Van Buren, Tyler and Fillmore.

The fact that Mr. Cleveland is the only President who succeeded himself four years after his first administration is well known, and is to be added to the other unusual things about his political life.

WHAT IS A COUGH?

A spasmodic effort to expel the mucus from the bronchial tubes. A cold causes a more abundant secretion of mucus, and when the lungs and bronchial tubes are inflamed, they are extremely sensitive to the irritation. Unless care is taken, the cold may result in pneumonia, which is swift and deadly. If the cold is a lingering one, the more leisurely but equally fatal consumption may set in. Do not neglect a cold or cough. Take Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. It always cures and cures quickly. Benson, Smith & Co., Ltd., Wholesale Agents sell it.

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No other medicine acts like it; no other medicine has done so much real, substantial good, no other medicine has restored health and strength at so little cost.

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